

# THE MORTON ARBORETUM

Joy Morton, founder



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### AUTUMN FOLIAGE COMPOSITIONS

If as much care went into the planning of compositions for autumn foliage effect as is devoted to arranging floral groupings for spring and summer interest many of our autumn landscapes would present a livelier and more colorful aspect.

Fall coloring varies from season to season, both as regards timing, intensity and brilliance, but generally speaking the sequence is the same and the color range reasonably constant. Climatic conditions do result in considerable variance, however, moisture and temperature exerting a pronounced influence. Exposure is significant also, locations in full sun producing the best color. Good drainage likewise seems to have a beneficial effect, and although no definite relationship between soil pH and color intensity has been established the possibility of such a correlation does exist.

The following color compositions have proved effective at the Arboretum and are being passed along for the benefit of those who may wish to reproduce them.

ALLEGHENY SHADBLOW (*Amelanchier laevis*) orange terra cotta fall color; ORIENTAL PHOTINIA (*Photinia villosa*) gold to russet; WITCHHAZEL (*Hamamelis virginiana*) golden yellow fall color, yellow flowers; ALPINE Currant (*Ribes alpinum*) persistent green foliage; RUNNING EUONYMUS (*Euonymus obovatus*) yellowish foliage color, bright green stems or PURPLELEAF WINTERCREEPER (*Euonymus fortunei colorata*) dark green evergreen foliage assuming purplish tints in autumn. S. P.Sh. Handsome planting for background or border.

CHINESE JUNIPER (*Juniperus chinensis*) gray green evergreen foliage; ARROWWOOD VIBURNUM (*Viburnum dentatum*) purplish red fall color; PFITZER JUNIPER (*Juniperus chinensis Pfitzeriana*) evergreen foliage; FRAGRANT SUMAC (*Rhus aromatica*) reddish purple fall color. S. A grouping for a well drained south slope.

CORNELIANCHERRY DOGWOOD (*Cornus mas*) persistent green to purplish foliage color; BOTTLEBRUSH BUCKEYE (*Aesculus parviflora*) clear yellow fall color; KOREAN BARBERRY (*Berberis koreana*) orange to red to purple fall color; BULGARIAN IVY (*Hedera helix "Bulgarian"*) low growing evergreen ground cover. S. P.Sh. Planting suitable for background or shrubbery border.

DOUBLEFILE VIBURNUM (*Viburnum tomentosum*) purple fall color; KERRIA (*Kerria japonica*) late yellow fall color, bright green twigs; CARPET BUGLE (*Aguga reptans*) green ground cover. S. P.Sh. An interesting fall color composition for the corner of a building.

S = Sun P.Sh. = Part Shade Sh. = Shade

DOUGLAS FIR (*Pseudotsuga taxifolia*) background—evergreen foliage; ALLEGHENY SHADBLOW (*Amelanchier laevis*) orange terra cotta fall color; BOTTLEBRUSH BUCKEYE (*Aesculus parviflora*) clear yellow fall color; PERIWINKLE (*Vinca minor*) lustrous evergreen foliage; S. P.Sh. The evergreen foliage of Douglas Fir provides a perfect background for this yellow and orange combination.

DOUGLAS FIR (*Pseudotsuga taxifolia*) evergreen foliage; FLOWERING DOGWOOD (*Cornus florida*) red fall color; BOTTLEBRUSH BUCKEYE (*Aesculus parviflora*) clear yellow fall color; PURPLELEAF WINTERCREEPER (*Euonymus fortunei colorata*) dark green evergreen foliage assuming purplish tints in winter. S. P.Sh. Contrasting color keynotes this showy grouping.

DOUGLAS FIR (*Pseudotsuga taxifolia*) background—evergreen foliage; WINGED EUONYMUS (*Euonymus alata*) rose pink fall color; WINTER HONEYSUCKLE (*Lonicera fragrantissima*) persistent green foliage; RUNNING EUONYMUS (*Euonymus obovatus*) yellowish foliage color, bright green stems; S. P.Sh. Even after the foliage of the Winged Euonymus has dropped this composition remains effective well into the winter.

DWARF CALLERY PEAR (*Pyrus calleryana faurei*) scarlet to purplish fall color; AMERICAN CRANBERRYBUSH VIBURNUM (*Viburnum trilobum*) orange red fall color; EUROPEAN PRIVET (*Ligustrum vulgare*) persistent green foliage, blue black fruit; JETBEAD (*Rhodotypos scandens*) yellowish fall color. S. A border grouping having as its nucleus the shapely Dwarf Callery Pear.

EASTERN HEMLOCK (*Tsuga canadensis*) evergreen foliage; LARGE FOTHERGILLA (*Fothergilla major*) late yellow fall foliage color; KOREAN LITTLELEAF BOXWOOD (*Buxus microphylla koreana*) evergreen foliage; PERIWINKLE (*Vinca minor*) a ground cover with lustrous evergreen foliage. S. P.Sh. The clear yellow of the Fothergilla furnishes the autumn feature of this all green arrangement.

EASTERN HEMLOCK (*Tsuga canadensis*) evergreen foliage; SOURWOOD (*Oxydendrum arboreum*) bright scarlet to purplish foliage color; DWARF JAPANESE YEW (*Taxus cuspidata nana*) evergreen foliage. Sh. P.Sh. An interesting grouping for a protected north slope.

EUROPEAN ALDER (*Alnus glutinosa*) persistent green foliage; GINKGO, MAIDENHAIR TREE (*Ginkgo biloba*) clear yellow fall color; KOREAN WINGED EUONYMUS (*Euonymus alata* "Korean type") orange scarlet fall color, decorative fruit; RUNNING EUONYMUS (*Euonymus obovatus*) ground cover with yellowish foliage color, bright green stems. S. The dark foliage mass of the European Alder provides a perfect background for this colorful arrangement.

KOREANSPICE VIBURNUM (*Viburnum carlesii*) late purplish red fall color; WINTER HONEYSUCKLE (*Lonicera fragrantissima*) persistent green foliage; PURPLELEAF WINTERCREEPER (*Euonymus fortunei colorata*) dark green evergreen foliage assuming purplish tints in winter. S. P.Sh. A late interest grouping to extend the fall season.

RED PINE (*Pinus resinosa*) evergreen foliage; AMERICAN SMOKETREE (*Cotinus americanus*) yellow to orange fall color; REDLEAVED SMOKEBUSH (*Cotinus coggygria rubrifolia*) reddish purple foliage with a frosty bloom. S. Although pleasing throughout the growing season, it is during the color display of the American Smoketree that the grouping is showiest.

RED PINE (*Pinus resinosa*) evergreen foliage; PIN OAK (*Quercus palustris*) dark red fall color, or Scarlet Oak (*Quercus coccinea*) bright scarlet foliage; TULIP TREE (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) golden yellow fall color; SHINING SUMAC (*Rhus copallina*) lustrous scarlet fall color; NEW JERSEY TEA (*Ceanothus americanus*) green foliage. S. Essentially a tree grouping with the Shining Sumac and New Jersey Tea serving as facers. In moist locations the Pin Oak will do best; in light, well drained soil, the Scarlet Oak.

RED OR SWAMP MAPLE (*Acer rubrum*) scarlet fall color; EUROPEAN LARCH (*Larix decidua*) gold to russet fall color; SOUR GUM or TUPELO (*Nyssa sylvatica*) polished scarlet foliage color; SPICEBUSH (*Lindera benzoin*) clear yellow fall color; S. A grouping suitable for moist locations.

THORNLESS HONEY LOCUST (*Gleditsia triacanthos*) gold to russet fall color; ARROWWOOD VIBURNUM (*Viburnum dentatum*) purplish red fall color; WINGED

EUONYMUS (*Euonymus alata*) rose pink fall color; MOUNTAIN NINEBARK (*Physocarpus monogynus*) russet to coppery fall color; S. P.Sh. A background or boundary planting of extended interest.

TULIP TREE (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) golden yellow fall color; JAPANESE CORNELIANCHERRY DOGWOOD (*Cornus officinalis*) persistent green foliage; BOTTLEBRUSH BUCKEYE (*Aesculus parviflora*) clear yellow fall color; CARPET BUGLE (*Ajuga reptans*) green ground cover. S. A pleasing blending of yellows and greens.

WASHINGTON HAWTHORN (*Crataegus phaenopyrum* syn. *cordata*) lustrous bronzy red to purplish foliage color, Chinese red fruit; WINGED EUONYMUS (*Euonymus alata*) rose pink fall color; ALPINE Currant (*Ribes alpinum*) persistent green foliage; PURPLELEAF WINTERCREEPER (*Euonymus fortunei colorata*) dark green evergreen foliage assuming purplish tints in winter. S. Another lively color grouping.

WASHINGTON HAWTHORN (*Crataegus phaenopyrum* syn. *cordata*) lustrous bronzy red to purplish foliage, Chinese red fruit; WITCHHAZEL (*Hamamelis virginiana*) golden yellow foliage color, yellow flowers; SMOKEBUSH (*Cotinus coggygria*) purplish foliage color; JETBEAD (*Rhodotypos scandens*) yellow green foliage color. S. Colorful contrasts characterize this autumn grouping.

WHITE ASH (*Fraxinus americana*) bronzy purple fall color; OHIO BUCKEYE (*Aesculus glabra*) early burnt orange fall color; SASSAFRAS (*Sassafras albidum*) orange to scarlet fall color. S. A composition of early coloring plants.

WHITE OAK (*Quercus alba*) wine red or coppery orange fall color or PIN OAK (*Quercus palustris*) dark red fall color; QUAKing ASPEN (*Populus tremuloides*) golden yellow fall color; BLACKHAW VIBURNUM (*Viburnum prunifolium*) reddish purple fall color; BITTERSWEET (*Celastrus scandens*) as a ground cover—yellow fall color, orange and red fruit. S. P.Sh. Naturalness characterizes this woodland composition.

WHITE PINE (*Pinus strobus*) evergreen foliage; AMUR MAPLE (*Acer ginnala*) scarlet to purplish red fall color; ALPINE Currant (*Ribes alpinum*) persistent green foliage; PURPLELEAF WINTERCREEPER (*Euonymus fortunei colorata*) dark green evergreen foliage assuming purplish tints in winter. S. The Amur Maple is featured dramatically in this otherwise all green composition.

WITCHHAZEL (*Hamamelis virginiana*) golden yellow fall color, yellow flowers; SOUTHERN BLACKHAW VIBURNUM (*Viburnum rufidulum*) polished blood red fall color; KERRIA (*Kerria japonica*) late yellow fall color, bright green twigs; PERIWINKLE (*Vinca minor*) lustrous evergreen foliage. S. P.Sh. Another striking late interest composition.

#### ADDITIONAL IDEAS FOR AUTUMNAL GROUPINGS

WITCHHAZEL (*Hamamelis virginiana*) golden yellow fall color, yellow flowers underplanted with DWARF JAPANESE YEW (*Taxus cuspidata nana*) dark evergreen foliage and PERIWINKLE (*Vinca minor*) lustrous evergreen foliage. Sh. P.Sh.

ROYAL AZALEA (*Rhododendron schlippenbachii*) orange scarlet fall color and KOREAN YODOGAWA AZALEA (*Rhododendron yedoense poukhanense*) purplish red fall color; against COLORADO BLUE SPRUCE (*Picea pungens glauca*) silvery green foliage. S.

KOREAN BARBERRY (*Berberis koreana*) orange to red and purple fall color and Chinese red fruit—planted in back of SWEET FERN (*Comptonia peregrina*) aromatic green fern-like foliage—on a gravelly slope in full sun.

WAYFARINGTREE VIBURNUM (*Viburnum lantana*) persistent green foliage or WINTER HONEYSUCKLE (*Lonicera fragrantissima*) persistent green foliage—as a companion plant or background for any of the brightly colored shrubs. S. P.Sh.

PAPER OR CANOE BIRCH (*Betula papyrifera*) golden yellow foliage, white trunks against WHITE OAK (*Quercus alba*) wine red or coppery orange fall color. S.

EASTERN Wahoo (*Euonymus atropurpurea*) yellow to purplish red fall foliage color, rose pink fruit against WHITE PINE (*Pinus strobus*) silvery green needles. S.

ORIENTAL PHOTINIA (*Photinia villosa*) gold to russet fall color underplanted with EPIMEDIUM (*Epimedium macranthum*) handsome ground cover with persistent green foliage. S. P.Sh.

AMERICAN HORNBEEAM (*Carpinus caroliniana*) early coppery orange fall color as a background for a planting of APRICOT GLOW CHRYSANTHEMUM (*Chrysanthemum* "Apricot Glow") long lasting apricot-colored flowers.

E. L. Kammerer



A fall planting composition consisting of Buckthorn, *Rhamnus pallasi* (left), Jetbead, *Rhodotypos scandens* (center foreground) Cornelian Cherry Dogwood, *Cornus mas* (right middle background) and European Larch, *Larix decidua* (right background). Earlier the Sugar Maple, *Acer saccharum* (center background) added to the effectiveness of the grouping.

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